

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): An information playback method comprising:  
reading first identification information from an auxiliary recording region of a  
recording medium, including the auxiliary recording region in which writing of content  
data is prohibited and a main storing region in which the content data can be written and  
reading [[the]] second identification information from the main recording region[[;]], and  
when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second  
identification information is read from the main recording region, comparing the first  
identification information with the second identification information[[;]], and outputting  
the content data read from the main recording region when the first identification  
information corresponds to the second identification information; and  
when first identification information is not read from the auxiliary recording region  
or second identification information is not read from the main recording region, outputting  
the content data read from the main recording region.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The information playback method according to  
Claim 25, wherein when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording  
region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, and  
when the first identification information does not correspond to the second identification

information from the comparison, outputting the content data read from the main recording region is prohibited.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The information playback method according to Claim 25, wherein when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, and when the first identification information does not correspond to the second identification information from the comparison, the content data read from the main recording region is output with a reduced quality.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): An information playback method comprising:  
reading first identification information from an auxiliary recording region of a recording medium, including the auxiliary recording region in which writing of content data is prohibited and a main recording region in which the content data can be written and reading second identification information from the main recording region[[;]], and when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, comparing the read first identification information with the read second identification information[[;]], and decoding encrypted content data recorded in the main recording region in accordance with the first identification information; and

when first identification information is not read from the auxiliary recording region or second identification information is not read from the main recording region, outputting the content data read from the main recording region.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): An information playback apparatus comprising:

playback means for playing back a recording medium including an auxiliary recording region in which writing of content data is prohibited and a main recording region in which the content data can be written;

output means for outputting the content data played back from the main recording region by the playback means; and

output control means for, when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, controlling the output means to output the content data played back from the main recording region when the first identification information and the second identification information ~~played back by the playback means~~ are compared with each other and the first identification information corresponds to the second identification information, and when first identification information is not read from the auxiliary recording region or second identification information is not read from the main recording region, controlling the output means to output the content data played back from the main recording region.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The information playback apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein, when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, the output control means prohibits outputting the content data played back from the main recording region when the first identification information does not correspond to the second identification information.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): The information generation apparatus according to Claim 29, wherein, when first identification information is read from the auxiliary

recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, the output control means outputs the content data played back from the main recording region with a reduced quality when the first identification information does not correspond to the second identification information.

Claim 32 (Currently Amended): An information playback apparatus comprising:  
playback means for playing back a ~~recording~~ recording medium including an auxiliary recording region that is not capable of recording content data and a main recording region that is capable of recording the content data;  
decoding means for decoding encrypted content data; and  
decoding control means for, when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, controlling the decoding means to decode the encrypted content data played back from the main recording region in accordance with any one of the first identification information and the second identification information when the first identification information played back from the auxiliary region is compared with the second identification information played back from the main recording region and the first identification information corresponds to the second identification information, and when first identification information is not read from the auxiliary recording region or second identification information is not read from the main recording region, controlling the output means to output the content data played back from the main recording region.

Claim 33 (New): An information playback apparatus comprising:

a playback unit configured to play back a recording medium including an auxiliary recording region in which writing of content data is prohibited and a main recording region in which the content data can be written;

an output unit configured to output the content data played back from the main recording region by the playback means; and

an output control unit configured to, when first identification information is read from the auxiliary recording region and second identification information is read from the main recording region, control the output means to output the content data played back from the main recording region when the first identification information and the second identification information are compared with each other and the first identification information corresponds to the second identification information, and when first identification information is not read from the auxiliary recording region or second identification information is not read from the main recording region, controlling the output means to output the content data played back from the main recording region.